

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 1839. A bill to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. REID, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 1840. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm and ranch land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. Res. 263. A resolution honoring the men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KYL, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Con. Res. 79. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should secure the sovereign right of the United States of America and the States to prosecute and punish, according to the laws of the United States and the several States, crimes committed in the United States by individuals who subsequently flee to Mexico to escape prosecution; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 861

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to authorize the acquisition of interests in undeveloped coastal areas in order to better ensure their protection from development.

S. 1053

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1053, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S. 1211

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1211, a bill to further the purposes of title XVI of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, the "Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act", by directing the Secretary of the

Interior to undertake a demonstration program for water reclamation in the Tularosa Basin of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 1419

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, a bill to support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care.

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a mechanism for United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to sponsor their permanent partners for residence in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 73

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 73, a concurrent resolution expressing the deep concern of Congress regarding the failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adhere to its obligations under a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the engagement by Iran in activities that appear to be designed to develop nuclear weapons.

S. RES. 262

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 262, a resolution to encourage the Secretary of the Treasury to initiate expedited negotiations with the People's Republic of China on establishing a market-based currency valuation and to fulfill its commitments under international trade agreements.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHN-

SON, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. REID, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 1840. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operations of privately-held farm and ranch land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senators ROBERTS, DASCHLE, DAYTON, DORGAN, JOHNSON, BAUCUS, ENZI, KERRY, HARKIN, COLEMAN, REID, and NELSON of Nebraska in introducing the "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program of 2003".

Newspaper headlines across North Dakota over the past year confirm that one issue has emerged as among the most controversial that we have seen in the State in some time. That issue has to do with who can hunt in North Dakota, and under what conditions.

As one State senator said during the 2003 session of the North Dakota legislature: "In all my years in the legislature, I haven't gotten so many calls as [on] this one."

Some have called for stricter limits on the number of out-of-state sportsmen in order to provide greater hunting opportunities for North Dakota citizens. On the other side, many of the rural businesses in North Dakota whose livelihoods have come to depend increasingly on the dollars spent by non-resident hunters have urged a less restrictive policy.

An article earlier this year in a North Dakota paper began with the declaration that, "No bill has stirred more passion in people than Senate Bill 2048, which deals with capping the number of out-of-state hunters." One State legislator termed the debate over the bill, "civil war between residents of North Dakota fighting over hunting ground."

At its core, the hunting debate is about demand exceeding supply. Quite simply, the public desire for hunting and other outdoor recreation opportunities increasingly exceeds the amount of land available for such activities. And the problem is growing worse each year. Other States face a similar challenge, and they too are in a quandary as they seek to address it.

In response to this growing problem, I have been working with a number of my colleagues—as well as farm, conservation, and sportsmen's groups—to develop a positive, straightforward, voluntary and incentive-based approach to addressing the "supply side" of this issue. And I am pleased to be introducing that initiative today.

Our proposal is a voluntary landowner incentive program. Its formal title is the "Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program of 2003". As the title indicates, it is strictly voluntary in nature.

It would work like this: Under the program—which I to refer to as the